

**Town Meeting Coordinating Committee Meeting
Minutes from August 20, 2009**

- 1. Call to Order:** This meeting began at 7:15pm. Present were Peggy Roberts, Mary Streeter, Rob Crowner, Nonny Burak, Carol Gray, Harry Brooks, Dorwenda Bynum-Lewis and Judy Simpson.
- 2. Minutes of August 20, 2009:** Postponed until next meeting.
- 3. Election of Officers:** Mary nominated Peggy for Chair and Nonny seconded the nomination. The vote was 5 yes with Carol and Peggy abstaining. Nonny nominated Mary Streeter for Vice Chair and Harry seconded the nomination. The vote was 5 yes with Carol and Mary abstaining. Nonny nominated Rob Crowner as secretary and Dorwenda seconded. The vote was 5 yes with Carol and Rob abstaining. Nonny nominated Dorwenda as stacker and Harry seconded the nomination. The vote was 5 yes with Dorwenda and Carol abstaining.
- 4. Meeting with the Finance Committee:** Peggy spoke with Andy Steinberg, Chair of the Finance Committee about meeting with us to discuss the budget issue and inform people about the budget. He reported that many members of the Finance Committee were away and there would be no meetings before Labor Day. Previous correspondence about the order of presentation of the budget was reviewed.
- 5.** Carol suggested that informing Town Meeting members better is a separate issue and one remedy would be to remove the 10-15 minute presentation by the Finance Committee at the beginning of Town Meeting and shift it to the Warrant Review so people have the information in advance. She thought the random lottery for presentation of budget items was actually a very simple and feasible thing to do. Rob suggested that having a budget with a single vote on the entire budget would take a lot less time. Carol thought this would mean a less informed Town Meeting since much is learned by going line by line in each budget area, plus she thought it would make Town Meeting more of a rubber stamp since money can be shifted within a particular budget area. Judy suggested that perhaps the issue of a random lottery could be put to Town Meeting for a vote. Carol read from Kay Moran's email which pointed out that the General Government area should be the last of the five municipal areas considered since it contains benefits for the other four and would be affected by changes made to them. The consensus seemed to be that Kay's point was well-taken and that the random lottery idea could be done while incorporating her suggestion. Carol suggested we have a subcommittee assembled with two members from each of the committees (Select Board, Finance Committee, TMCC and the Moderator).

Harry moved that a subcommittee of TMCC be established to draft invitations to the Select Board and Finance Committee to discuss the random lottery proposal. Dorwenda seconded the motion. Whether it would make sense to have the issue of how to better educate Town Meeting about the budget be part of that subcommittee's mission was discussed. The sense of the meeting seemed to be that it made sense to have a narrow focus for the subcommittee so that it can be implemented. Harry, Dorwenda and Carol volunteered to be on the subcommittee. They will draft a proposal for approval at the next TMCC meeting.

Peggy raised the issue again of helping Town Meeting members become more educated about the budget prior to Town Meeting. Mary said she likes the idea of having a forum annually to further educate Town Meeting members about how the budget works.

- 6. Planning Ahead for Work:** It was decided we schedule meetings on Fridays at 4:30pm on the following dates: Aug. 28, Sept. 4, 9(Wednesday), and 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, and Oct. 23. The date for the Warrant Review will be set at the next meeting, though the tentative date is Wednesday, October 14. The educational forum was tentatively set for Tuesday, Oct. 20 and Bus Tour tentatively set for Sunday, October 18. Nonny will reserve rooms and post these meeting times. She will try to reserve the Town Room of Town Hall for the Warrant Review.
- 7. Suggestions for Additions to TMCC Page on Town Website:** Postponed until the next meeting.
- 8. Adjournment:** Nonny moved to adjourn, Harry seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to adjourn and the meeting at 8:48pm.

Documents Distributed at the meeting:

1. Agenda for today's meeting.
2. Minutes from June 30, 2009.
3. Probable Dates for TMCC Activities (based on Judy's list)
4. TMCC Projects (descriptions of steps in planning events and projects)
5. Packet compiled by Peggy of prior correspondence about the random lottery proposal for budget areas.
6. Photocopies of calendar
7. Town Meeting Calendar prepared by Mary with dates blocked out of when various TMCC members were unavailable.
8. November 5, 2008 Fall Special Town Meeting Checklist

Carol Gray, Secretary